

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/020/2001

20 March 2001

Further information on UA 275/99 (ASA 20/35/99, 15 October 1999) - Fear for safety

INDIA (Jammu and Kashmir) Peer Noor ul Haq

A group of police officers in Srinagar have been accused of murdering three detainees in their custody, and a hearing is scheduled for 28 March. Peer Noor ul Haq is a key prosecution witness, and police have reportedly threatened and harassed him and his family. Amnesty International believes their lives are in danger.

Peer Noor ul Haq was arrested on 19 June 1999, after he lodged a complaint that certain police officers had taken bribes. He was detained for ten days, during which he was tortured. On the night of 23 June two other men, Ghulam Matto and Javid Shah, were put into the same cell as him. He heard screaming from another cell, which he took to be the sound of a third man being tortured. Shortly after the screaming stopped a senior police officer came and took away Ghulam Matto and Javid Shah. Neither man was seen alive again, and their bodies were found in a village 70 miles away. The body of the third man, Nazir Gilkar, was recovered from Dal Lake in Srinagar. A group of police officers have been charged with the killings.

Since Peer Noor ul Haq came forward as a witness, police have threatened to kill him unless he decides not to testify. Both the State Human Rights Commission and the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir have ordered that he receive police protection, but no such protection has ever been provided.

Amnesty International will be taking up the case of Ghulam Matto, Javid Shah and Nazir Gilkar in a longer-term campaign.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately take adequate measures to ensure the safety of Peer Noor ul Haq and his family;
- urging the authorities to immediately order an independent inquiry into allegations of police harassment of Peer Noor ul Haq and his family;
- urging the authorities to give a commitment that people will be free to raise complaints against the police, and to act as witnesses in court cases that follow such complaints, without fear of harassment, and that action will be taken against anyone attempting to intimidate complainants or witnesses.

APPEALS TO:

Dr Farooq Abdullah
Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir
Chief Minister's Office
Raj Bhavan
Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir
India

Fax: + 91 191 545649

Telegrams: Chief Minister, Srinagar, India

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

Mr Ashok Suri

2

Director General of Police
Office of the DGP
Police Headquarters
Srinagar

Telegrams: Director General Police, Srinagar, India

Salutation: Dear Director General

COPIES TO:

Mr L K Advani
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Room No.104
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
Fax: + 91 11 3015750
Salutation: Dear Minister

Justice Parry
Chairperson
Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission
Hyderpora, New Airport Road
Srinagar 190 014
Jammu and Kashmir
India
Salutation: Dear Justice Parry

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 May 2001.